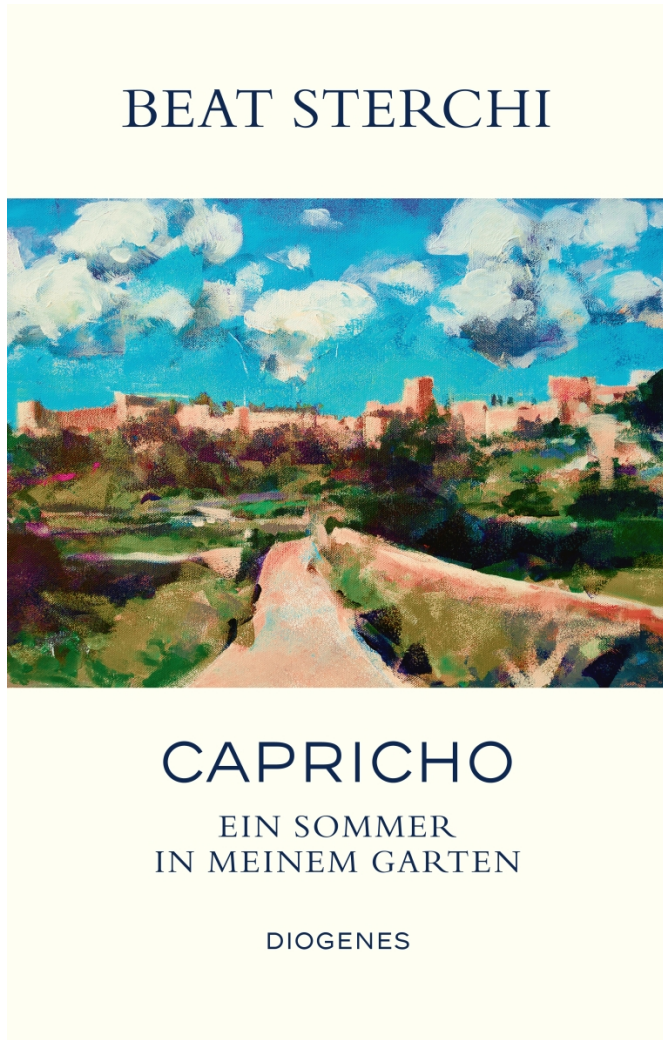


Beat Sterchi  
*Capricho*

Published by Diogenes as *Capricho*  
Original title: *Capricho*



A writer makes his annual journey to his simple little house in a rundown Spanish village, the last dwelling at the end of the country road. It's the history of this very village that he wants to get down on paper, but he can't find the words. Instead he begins to work his ›huerto‹, the garden, and in the process enters into conversations not only with his neighbours - who pass on stories and tips - but above all with himself and with nature.

## Book factsheet

General Fiction  
272 pages  
11.6 x 18.4 x 2.2 cm  
April 2021

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### Award

2018 ›Literaturpreis‹ Kanton Bern für *Aber gibt es keins*

### Praise

#### *Capricho*

»In order to perceive the nuances of his new book, you have to let it carry you away.« – Maria Frisé / Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt

»This is a classic example of how seemingly unspectacular literature doesn't explicitly describe major topics like alienation, criticism of civilisation, and historical traumas, but instead illuminates and makes them visible.« – Hansruedi Kugler / Schweiz am Wochenende, Aarau

»Together with the first person narrator, the reader once again comes closer to a centuries-old but disappearing Mediterranean way of life.« – Alexander Sury / Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich

»A little book to pause with, to slow down for a moment.« – Christine Westermann / WDR5, Cologne

»This is by no means sentimental; it's highly precise, and at times painful, because nature's whims are certainly not always friendly.« – Roman Bucheli / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»*Capricho* is a novel to immerse yourself in - a book that grounds you, because it motivates you to reflect on everyday things.« – Gabi von Waden / WDR 2 Lesen, Cologne

»A novel to wind down with in the garden at home - or anywhere, for that matter.« – Thomas Gubler / Basler Zeitung, Basel

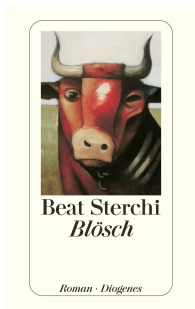
»This much slow living is infectious.« – Michael Wurmitzer / Der Standard, Vienna

»I grew really fond of the bizarre and idiosyncratic villagers while I was reading it.« – Luzia Stettler / SRF 1, Zurich

»I found that the book had a tenderly calming effect on me; reading it did me good. It's such an infinitely friendly book.« – Elke Heidenreich / SRF1, Zurich



Beat Sterchi, born in Berne in 1949, moved to Canada in 1970 and studied English. From 1975 to 1977 he was a language teacher in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and studied Latin American literature. Until 1982 he engaged in further studies in Canada and taught German and English in Montreal. Beat Sterchi now lives in Berne as a freelance writer.



Cow  
440 pages  
1983  
🏆 Award winner